

REMARKS

No claims have been amended. Claims 9-12, 15-18 and 20-22 have been canceled without prejudice.

The Examiner indicated that claims 1, 2 and 4-8 are allowable. Applicant thanks the Examiner.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-12, 15-18 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The Examiner rejected claims 9-12, 15-18 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gulistan in view of DiBene (U.S. Patent No. 5,785,449) and Schwartz (U.S. Patent No. 5,743,692). In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been obviated. Applicant may pursue claims 9-12, 15-18 and 20-22 in a continuation application.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections have been overcome. Applicant reserves all rights with respect to the application of the doctrine of equivalents. If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 1/25, 2005



Michael J. Mallie
Reg. No. 36,591
Tel.:(408) 720-8300
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026